

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A terminal fitting (10; 110) made of a conductive plate material stamped out into a specified shape, comprising:
 - a main body (13; 117);
 - a coupling (16; 130) extending from an outer peripheral edge of the main body (13; 117); and
 - a wire connection portion (17; 111) extending from an extending end of the coupling (16; 130);
wherein the coupling (16; 130) has reinforcing means (20; 26; 107; 108; 133) formed by folding at least one reinforcing plate (20; 26; 107; 108; 133).
2. The terminal fitting of claim 1, wherein the at least one reinforcing plate (20; 26; 107; 108; 133) is folded at lateral edges of the coupling (16; 130).
3. The terminal fitting of claim 1, wherein the coupling (16; 130) is formed with side walls (22; 133) standing up along lateral edges thereof.
4. The terminal fitting of claim 3, wherein the side walls (22; 133) and the reinforcing plates (20; 26; 107; 108) are substantially continuous with each other along the lateral edges of the coupling (16; 130).
5. The terminal fitting of claim 4, wherein the wire connection portion (17; 111) is a barrel with a bottom plate (17C) substantially continuous with the coupling (16; 130) and crimping pieces (17A; 17B; 113) standing up from lateral edges of the bottom plate (17C), the crimping pieces (17A; 17B; 113) and the side walls (22; 133) being substantially continuous with each other along the lateral edges of the coupling (16; 130).

6. The terminal fitting of claim 1, wherein the coupling (16; 130) is formed with a narrow reinforcing rib (47; 132) extending substantially along an extending direction of the coupling (16; 130).

7. The terminal fitting of claim 1, wherein at least one flat reinforcing plate (106) is placed on the coupling (130), the coupling (130) and the reinforcing plate (106) having displacement preventing means (140; 142; 134; 137) engaged with each other for preventing displacements of the coupling (130) and the reinforcing plate (106) along a thickness direction (TD) and displacements along directions parallel to facing surfaces thereof.

8. The terminal fitting of claim 7, wherein the displacement preventing means (140; 142; 134; 137) includes an engaging hole (140) and an engaging projection (142), the engaging hole (140) being formed in one of the coupling (130) and the reinforcing plate (106) in an area where the reinforcing plate (106) is placed on the coupling (130).

9. The terminal fitting of claim 8, wherein the engaging projection (142) is formed on the other of the coupling (130) and the reinforcing plate (106) to project to a side where the coupling (130) and the reinforcing plate (106) contact each other and at a position for engaging the engaging hole (142).

10. The terminal fitting of claim 9, wherein the engaging projection (142) has a height longer than the depth of the engaging hole (142), a leading end of the engaging projection (142) projecting out from the engaging hole (140) to define a projecting portion pressed into contact with an opening edge of the engaging hole in the thickness direction (TD).

11. The terminal fitting of claim 7, wherein the displacement preventing means (140; 142; 134; 137) include at least one cut (134) and at least one fastener (137).

12. The terminal fitting of claim 11, wherein the cut (134) is formed by cutting off an edge of one of the coupling (130) and the reinforcing plate (106) and has two edges substantially facing each other along a longitudinal direction.

13. The terminal fitting of claim 12, wherein the fastener (137) is on the other of the coupling (130) and the reinforcing plate (106) and is crimped into contact with a surface adjacent the cut (134) for holding the coupling (130) and the reinforcing plate (106) at a position adjacent the cut (134), and opposite edges of the fastener (137) contacting the opposite edges of the cut (134).

14. The terminal fitting of claim 7, further comprising return preventing means (120; 121) in the main body (117) for holding the terminal fitting (110) assembled with a second terminal fitting (150).

15. The terminal fitting of claim 14, wherein the return preventing means (120; 121) includes a return preventing hole (120) in one of the terminal fittings (110; 150) and a return preventing projection (121) at the other thereof, each return preventing projection (121) being formed by cutting and bending and opposite ends of a cut side of each return preventing projection being coupled to the main body.

16. A terminal fitting assembly, comprising:

a first terminal fitting (10; 110) having a first main body (13; 117), a coupling (16; 130) extending from an outer peripheral edge of the first main body (13; 117), and a first wire connection portion (17; 111) extending from an extending end of the coupling (16; 130), the coupling (16; 130) having reinforcing means (20; 26; 107; 108; 133) formed by folding at least one reinforcing plate (20; 26; 107; 108; 133), the first main body (13; 117) having a layered structure formed by folding a single plate (50A; 106) substantially continuous with the reinforcing plate (20; 26; 107; 108; 133) to have a first thickness (Ta), a first lock (15; 124) standing up by a selected distance (Ta) from the outer peripheral edge of the first main body (13; 117);

a second terminal fitting (30; 60; 150) having second main body (33; 63) with a second thickness (Ta) and a second lock (45; 65) standing up from an outer peripheral edge of the second main body (33; 63) by a distance substantially equal to the thickness (Ta) of the first main body (13; 117); and

the first terminal fitting (10; 110) being assembled with the second terminal fitting (30; 60; 150) so that the second main body (33; 63) is held between the first main body (13; 117) and the first lock (15; 124) and the first main body (13; 117) is held between the second main body (33; 63) and the second lock (45; 65).

17. The terminal fitting of claim 16, wherein the at least one reinforcing plate (20; 26; 107; 108; 133) is folded at lateral edges of the coupling (16; 130).

18. The terminal fitting of claim 17, wherein the coupling (16; 130) is formed with side walls (22; 133) standing up along lateral edges thereof.

19. The terminal fitting of claim 18, wherein the side walls (22; 133) and the reinforcing plates (20; 26; 107; 108) are substantially continuous with each other along the lateral edges of the coupling (16; 130).

20. The terminal fitting of claim 19, wherein the wire connection portion (17; 111) is a barrel with a bottom plate (17C) substantially continuous with the coupling (16; 130) and crimping pieces (17A; 17B; 113) standing up from lateral edges of the bottom plate (17C), the crimping pieces (17A; 17B; 113) and the side walls (22; 133) being substantially continuous with each other along the lateral edges of the coupling (16; 130).